

ANTHROPOLOGY

Project title: People and Nature: Yellowstone as Landscape

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Objective: This research will provide an ethnographic study of a national park. The descriptive data provided by ethnography are not easily assembled by other methods. By living in a place and observing, as well as talking with the people who visit, work, and reside within it provides a greater depth of understanding. In discovering what people do when they experience Yellowstone, what they expect and how these expectations shape their attitudes about parks, wilderness and recreation, this research should provide a valuable contribution to park management and hopefully encourage and invite thoughtful dialogue over what culture and nature means and their relative value in emerging policy.

Findings: This research is ongoing. However, some interviews were conducted with visitors and employees. Observations about what visitors actually do have been recorded but without any results or conclusions at this time.